

NEWS*about more***BOOKS THAT MATTER**FREDERICK A. PRAEGER, *Publishers*

64 UNIVERSITY PLACE, NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PRAEGER TO PUBLISH WORKS
OF IMPRISONED RUSSIAN POET**

Last year a young Russian poet, named Aleksandr S. Yesenin-Volpin, fearing arrest because his work had already displeased the authorities, sat down and wrote an essay boldly entitled "A Free Philosophical Treatise" and gave the essay and copies of his poems to friends, requesting that the manuscript be published in the West. Yesenin-Volpin asked that his true name be used if his Treatise and poetry were to be published. He was arrested shortly thereafter and taken to prison. The Soviet regime claims that there are no longer political prisoners in the USSR. Therefore, as in the case of his previous political arrest, Yesenin-Volpin has been detained on the euphemistic charge of "mental instability." In December, Frederick A. Praeger, Inc. will publish Yesenin-Volpin's complete manuscript in an English translation by George Reavey, noted for his translations of Boris Pasternak's poetry, and also, at the poet's wish, in the original Russian. The title of the book: **A LEAF OF SPRING.**

The poems and the essay are one of the most important documents to come from behind the Iron Curtain since the publication in 1957 by Praeger of the ex-Vice President of Yugoslavia Milovan Djilas's "The New Class," which made publishing history. They express a deep personal love of freedom which is characteristic of a whole new generation of rebellious Soviet youth. As Yesenin-Volpin says in his introduction, "There is no freedom of the press in Russia, but who can say there is no freedom of thought."

Yesenin-Volpin was born in Moscow in 1925, the natural son of the famous lyric poet Sergey Yesenin (or Essenin). He is considered by many to be Soviet Russia's outstanding logician as well as a widely admired poet, and his logical skepticism as well as his poetic frankness are unmistakable in this book. Though his poems have never been published in Russia, they have long been circulating there unofficially, attracting wide attention. Among Moscow's group of young intellectuals, his verse is considered better than that of his famous father, and stanza after stanza is quoted from memory.

A LEAF OF SPRING

Publication Date: December

\$3.00



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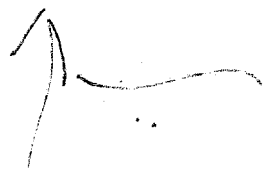
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